

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
ACDA-12 /110 W

-----070079 110924Z /65

O 101700Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7077
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3095

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, SO, ET
SUBJECT: HORN OF AFRICA: OAU MEDIATION CONTINUING

REF(A) MODADISCIO 476, (B) LAGOS 2519

1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEA AFRICA DEPARTMENT FAFOWARA INFORMED
POLCOUNS TODAY THAT BOTH THE ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER
HAD AGREED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE
IN LAGOS ON MARCH 16. ITALIAN COUNSELLOR ARAGONA ALSO TOLD
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POLCOUNS THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE MEETING BY FAFOWARA
YESTERDAY BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM
THE OGADEN. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN INFORMED BY ROME
THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO ROME OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI
CONFIRMED THE AGREEMENT OF THE TWO PARTIES TO ATTEND THE LAGOS
MEETING.

2. THE NIGERIAN PLAN, AT THE TIME THE MEETING WAS SET UP, WAS TO CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN PLACE. THEY THEN WERE TO SUGGEST DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS THAT WOULD AIM FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF SMALI TROOPS FROM THE OGADEN. THESE WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN A FRAMEWORK THAT WOULD ALLOW ETHIOPIA TO INTRODUCE INTERNAL REFORMS LEADING TO FEDERAL AUTONOMY FOR THE OGADEN WITHOUT HAVEING TO AGREE TO BARGAIN AUTONOMY FOR WITHDRAWAL. THE NIGERIANS BASED THIS APPROACH ON THE FACT THAT THE ETHIOPIANS CLAIM THEY ARE ALREADY COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF FEDERAL AUTONOMY.

3. ACCORDING TO FAFOWARA, ETHIOPIAN MAJOR BAYEH DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO LAGOS (REFTEL B) CONDITIONED ETHIOPIAN PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS ON NIGERIA'S PUBLICLY BRANDING SOMALIA AS THE AGGRESSOR. OBASANJO REFUSED TO DO SO AND ADVISED THE ETHIOPIANS TO LOBBY AMONG THE OAU NATIONS. FAFOWARA SAID THE ETHIOPIANS HAVE MOUNTED A STRONG DIPLOMATIC EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION AND WILL PRESS FOR SUCH A STATEMENT AT EHD MARCH 16 MEETING.

4. ARAGONA SAID THAT OAU SECRETARY GEENRAL ETEKI BELIEVES THE SUBJECT OF FRONTIERS IS MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS THAN THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. ETAKI ALSO BELIEVES THAT ERITRA IS A SEPARATE PROBLEM THAT SHOULD BE LEFT EXCLUSIVELY TO ETHIOPIAN SOVEREIGNTY; SOME OF THE OAU MEMBERS, HOWEVER, WOULD LIKE TO SEE ETHIOPIA PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LIBERATIONFRONT, WHICH THE OAU DOES NOT RECOGNIZE.

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5. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER FALLE BRIEFED AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AKADIRI THIS AFTERNOON ON MEETING YESTERDAY IN MOGADISCIO TO WHICH SIAD SUMMONED US, UK, ITALIAN AND OTHER AMBASSADORS. ON INSTRUCTIONS, FALLE SUPPORTED CONTINUED ONGOING OAU AND NIGERIAN EFFORTS TO PRODUCE A LASTING SOLUTION. AKADIRI SAID FMG WAS DELIGHTED WITH NEWS OF SOMALI WITHDRAWAL. HE SAID HE WOULD INFORM OBASANJO IMMEDIATELY OF FALLE'S PRESENTATION. HE SAID 'OUR HEAD OF STATE WILL SLEEP BETTER NOW.'
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